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Break: 2.0

Other:

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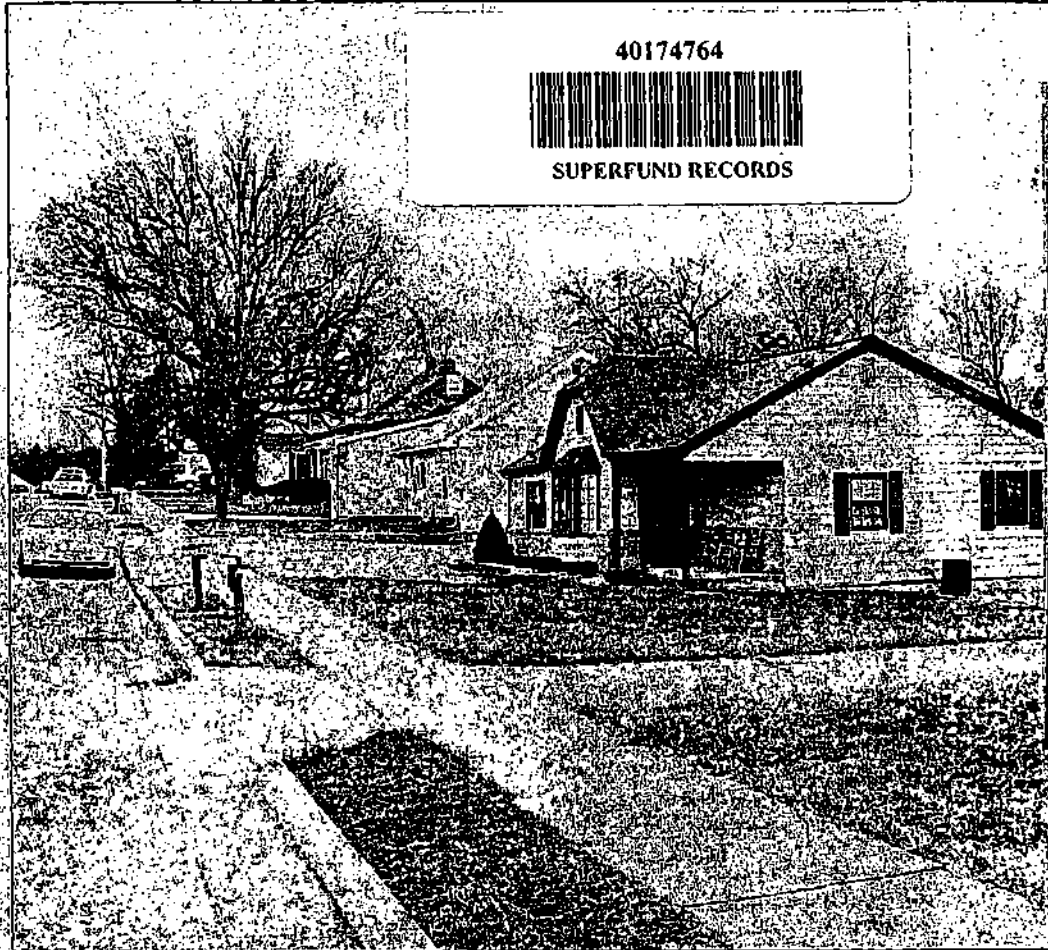
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STATE

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SUPERFUND RECORDS



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

High-Lead Levels On Streets

- Do not allow children to play in this street or on curbs
- Have children play on sand/grass cover or park at Crystal City Park
- Remove shoes before entering your home
- Wash hands and face before eating, drinking and sleeping

For more information, contact the department at 1-800-361-4827

The Associated Press

A sign posted by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources warns residents of high levels of lead on the streets in Herculanum, Mo. Monday. The Doe Run Co. that operates a lead smelter in the small Missouri town present-

ed details of its voluntary property purchase program to the residents during a meeting Monday. The first phase of the program is offered to owners of homes nearest the Doe Run lead smelter that house children under the age of 72 months.

Company to offer details on buyout plan

By The Associated Press

HERCULANEUM, Mo. — The Doe Run Co. said Monday night that it plans to spend up to \$11 million to buy homes near the nation's largest lead smelter. Company officials met Monday with about 20 homeowners who have children under 6 and therefore qualify immediately for the buyout offer. The company planned another meeting for Wednesday to talk to about 140 homeowners who will be part of the second phase of the buyout plan.

Dennis Shores is among those in the first group. He lives with 3-year-old granddaughter, Madison, about two blocks from the

months a small amount of trust in Doe Run.

"I've just got my deep feeling that they're wanting to work with us," Shores said.

Under pressure from Gov. Bob Holden and state regulators, Doe Run agreed March 19 to offer buyouts to about 160 homeowners within three-eighths of a mile the 110-year-old smelter.

At a separate meeting held Monday night for reporters, spokeswoman Barb Shepard said Doe Run has hired Development Resource Group Inc. to work with individual homeowners and appraise each home's value. For the homes with children under 6, that process will begin as soon as homeowners schedule a meeting

whether to accept the buyout offer.

Shepard said the homes will be appraised at "fair market value" as of August 2001. That's when Doe Run first posted signs near the smelter warning residents of possible contamination.

But many residents say rising fears of lead poisoning have been bringing property values down for years. Shepard said Doe Run has done its own studies indicating that's not the case.

Alderman Jeff Kendall, who lives in the buyout area, said he plans to withhold his opinion until he sees the appraisals.

"I want to see the numbers," Kendall said. "We're going to

"There will be people living in those homes only if there is an agreement among all parties that it is healthy," Shepard said.

In a visit to Herculanum last month, Holden had said the bought-out homes would not be reused.

Shepard stressed that Doe Run would only buy homes that owners wanted to sell. The buyouts cover most of what was once central Herculanum, bounded on the east by the smelter near the bank of the Mississippi River.

State health officials say that more than half the children under 6 who live within a half-mile of the smelter

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